UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/678
S/1998/1089
18 November 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 11
Report of the Security Council

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 13 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly (the lower house of Parliament) of Belarus adopted on 12 November 1998 in connection with the continuing danger of possible military action against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alyaksandr SYCHOU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Belarus to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus adopted on 12 November 1998

The Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus expresses serious concern over the continued existence of a serious threat of military action in the Balkans by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), despite the fact that the Yugoslav leadership has taken practical steps for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998): it has begun the withdrawal of special police units to the places where they are permanently stationed, conditions are being created for the return of refugees and efforts are being made for the conduct of a political dialogue.

The members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus are convinced that the use of military force by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will only make the situation worse, destroy the prospects for peace talks and lead to a marked deterioration of the situation in the Balkans and the regions adjacent to Kosovo. A military operation will result in many losses of life among the civilian population and increase the flow of refugees.

The Republic of Belarus is in favour of the international community sending to Kosovo impartial observers who would be able to make a realistic assessment of the situation and promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

There is a need to resume as soon as possible the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission in Kosovo, since the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has confirmed in its decision its readiness to facilitate the work of the mission in implementation of the Security Council resolution.

We call on the parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries to do everything possible to prevent military action in Kosovo and to promote a peaceful solution to this problem.